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Letter dated 23 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I present my compliments to you and have the honour to forward herewith a self-explanatory letter addressed to you by Mr. Charles Ghankay Taylor, President of Liberia.

I request that this letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Neh **Dukuly-Tolbert**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 23 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Our attention is drawn to remarks attributed to Guinea's Army Chief of Staff, Col. Kerfalla Camara, in which he has threatened to take the Guinean conflict "deep into Liberia".

We regard these utterances to be unfriendly, bellicose and tantamount to a declaration of war against the peaceful people of Liberia. Further, such threats are counter to the spirit of peaceful coexistence as enshrined in the Mano River Union mechanism.

It is unfortunate that the Government of Guinea would blame Liberia for its internal problems and use such blame as a ruse to engage in armed confrontation against our people. The fact of the matter is that the ongoing civil war in Guinea has grown out of armed challenges to President Lansana Conteh's Government, as a result of its problems with opposition leader Alpha Conde.

Liberia continues to be a responsible peace-abiding member of the international community which has been the victim of five armed incursions by Guinean-based Liberian dissidents supported by President Conteh's Government.

The continued arms embargo against Liberia makes it difficult for us to defend our sovereign territory against such attacks and could pose a greater threat to our national security if the Guinean army goes ahead with its threat to attack us.

As you are aware, Liberia destroyed all her arms and ammunition several years ago and currently remains disarmed. Accordingly, it would seem only fair, in light of the threats from Guinea, that this country be allowed to secure equipment for its legitimate defence needs.

We hereby call upon the United Nations to prevail on the Guinean authorities to exercise restraint and better judgement against carrying out their threat. Furthermore, we urge the United Nations to support the timely deployment of the monitoring forces of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) along the Liberian/Guinean border.

Any escalation of the already troubling conflict in our subregion could prove disastrous for lasting peace and destabilize West Africa for many years to come.

I should be pleased if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dahkpannah Dr. Charles Ghankay **Taylor**